

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



November 12, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
CARLSBAD ENERGY CENTER PROJECT
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION, 07-AFC-6**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Wednesday, December 2, 2009
1:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Sheraton Carlsbad
5480 Grand Pacific Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(Wheelchair Accessible)
(Map Attached)**

Call-in number (toll free): 866-732-2736, Access Code 5342720

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the Carlsbad Energy Center Project (CECP) Application for Certification (07-AFC-6). The FSA was published on November 12, 2009. The FSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's final engineering and environmental evaluation of, and recommendation for, the proposed CECP (with mitigation, staff recommended the Commission approve the CECP).

This notice is also to inform you that Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to receive comments on the FSA as it relates to air quality and public health. The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) will be in attendance, and will comment on their Final Determination of Compliance. The workshop will provide an opportunity for agencies, the public and other interested parties to discuss the air quality components of the FSA. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop will be held on December 2, 2009, between 1PM and 5PM at the Sheraton Carlsbad, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad, CA. Those unable to attend the workshop can listen to the discussion by calling toll free 866-732-2736 (access code 5342720).

The Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case will schedule a pre-hearing conference in December, 2009 or January, 2010, followed several weeks later by evidentiary hearings. During the CECP Evidentiary Hearings, the Committee (Vice-Chair James D. Boyd and Chairman Karen Douglas) will consider the recommendations presented by staff, applicant, interveners and the public prior to proposing its decision to the full five-member Energy Commission for deliberation and final consideration.

Summary of the Proposed Carlsbad Energy Center Project (07-AFC-6)

Carlsbad Energy Center, LLC (the applicant) filed an Application for Certification with the California Energy Commission on September 14, 2007, to construct and operate the Carlsbad Energy Center Project (CECP), a 558-megawatt (MW) gross combined-cycle power generating facility configured with two Siemens SCC6-5000F natural-gas power blocks. The CECP would be built at the existing Encina Power Station (EPS) in the city of Carlsbad, California, in northern San Diego County.

The 32-acre CECP would be located on the northeast section of the 95-acre EPS, located along the western, coastal border of Carlsbad. The proposed building site is currently occupied by the EPS east tank farm, including above-ground fuel oil storage Tanks 5, 6, and 7. As proposed by the applicant, these storage tanks would be demolished and removed, and the soil upon which the tanks currently stand would be remediated, as appropriate. The EPS has been in operation since the early 1950s and periodically expanded. EPS Units 1, 2, and 3 (circa 1950 steam boilers that provided the initial electrical generation) would be permanently retired once the CECP (Units 6 and 7) is approved and operational. EPS Units 4 and 5, part of a subsequent EPS expansion that occurred in 1978, would continue generating electricity, regardless of this proceeding or its outcome. CECP construction is proposed to begin during the second or third quarter of 2010, and would take 25 months to complete. If approved, the applicant expects commercial operations to begin in late summer or winter, 2012.

The CECP would connect its nominal 540 megawatts (MWs) of electricity to a modified Encina 138 kilo-volt (kV) switchyard, and to a proposed new Encina 230 kV switchyard. Transmission interconnections to these adjacent switchyards would be comprised of an overhead line from CECP Unit 6 to the 138-kV switchyard, and a combined, above and below ground cable from CECP Unit 7 to the proposed new 230-kV switchyard.

Natural gas would be provided through a new 1,100-foot long interconnection to an existing Southern California Gas Company high pressure natural gas line located adjacent to the CECP site. The new CECP units would be natural gas-fired and air-cooled, eliminating the daily need for large quantities of once-through cooling seawater. The minimal water necessary for CECP's industrial purposes would be provided through either reclaimed water (Title 22 water from the Carlsbad Municipal Water District) or desalinated water (via on-site ocean water purification system). The proposed desalination system would utilize EPS' permitted ocean water intake and discharge facilities, negating a new ocean water intake system or additional flows. Potable water (suitable for drinking and showering) for the proposed project would be obtained through the Carlsbad Municipal Water District. Stormwater would be collected on site, and directed to a detention basin on the northernmost section of the proposed site. Collected stormwater would be tested for potential treatment, before discharging into the adjacent Agua Hedionda Lagoon, consistent with existing local and state regulatory standards and appropriate permits.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction and operation in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, or by email at: publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, an electronic copy of the FSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/carlsbad>. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us

The FSA will be available for review at the following Carlsbad local libraries:

Carlsbad City Library (South)
1775 Dove Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Georgina Cole Library (North)
1250 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Copies of the FSA will also be available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. If you would like a paper copy or CD of the FSA, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to California Energy Commission, Attention: Mineka Foggie, Siting Project Assistant, at (916) 653-1608, or by e-mail at mfoggie@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection
Division

Enclosure
Mailed to lists: 7285, 7286

Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission staff's Final Staff Assessment for the Carlsbad Energy Center Project, Application for Certification (07-AFC-6).

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

FOLD HERE

California Energy Commission
Attention: Mineka Foggie
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

FOLD HERE

Staple or Tape closed.

FSA WORKSHOP (Air Quality)
CARLSBAD ENERGY CENTER PROJECT
Wednesday, December 2, 2009
1pm – 5pm

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